

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01

VO-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-02

/041 W

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R 150815Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9988

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1301

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, US

SUBJ: ASYLUM APPROACH ALLEGEDLY ON BEHALF OF INDIAN POLITICIAN

1. A MAN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS SUROSHAO DUTTA, ADOCAT
OF CALCUTTA, AND A FOLLOWER OF J.P. NARAYAN, VISITED POLITICAL
SECTION OF EMBASSY THIS MORNING, MARCH 15, TO REQUEST "DIPLO-
MATIC ASYLUM"FOR KAPORI THAKUR WHOM HE SAID WAS FORMER CHIEF
MINISTER OF BIHAR. DUTTA CLAIMS THAT THAKUR IS "ABSCONDING"
AND THAT HE COULD BE BROUGHT TO BANGLADESH SO THAT HE COULD
"ENLIGHTEN" US EMBASSY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN INDIA. DUTTA
SAID THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROACH FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN
INDIA AND THUS HE HAD COME TO DACCA TO SEE US.

2. POLITICAL OFFICER TOLD DUTTA WHAT HE WAS SUGGESTING WAS
INAPPROPRIATE AND THAT EMBASSY COULD NOT BE OF ASSISTANCE TO
HIM. WHEN DUTTA BEGAN TO EXPLAIN THAT IT WAS THE SOVIETS WHO
REALLY DECIDED WHAT HAPPENED IN INDIA AND THAT IT WAS IN
OUR INTERESTS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING THERE, THE
POLITICAL OFFICER TOLD DUTTA THAT THE USG HAD ITS DIPLOMATIC
MISSION IN INDIA WHICH FOLLOWED EVENTS THERE AND THAT, IN
ANY EVENT, IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THIS MISSION TO
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COMMENT UPON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA.

DUTTA SAID THAT HE WAS TRYING TO SEE SOMEONE IN THE BDG SINCE IT WAS NOW A DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT, BY IMPLICATION SYMPATHETIC TO HIS CAUSE. DUTTA EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF'S REPLY AND DISINCLINATION TO DISCUSS EVENTS IN INDIA BUT SAID THAT, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, HE MIGHT APPROACH US AGAIN. HE WAS TOLD IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN OUR ANSWER. DUTTA REQUESTED THAT HIS VISIT BE KEPT SECRET SO THAT HE DID NOT GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES.

3. THE CONVERSATION LASTED LESS THAN 10 MINUTES. EMBOFF DID NOT WISH TO PROLONG CONVERSATION IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE DUTTA ANY FALSE ENCOURAGEMENT.
BOSTER

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